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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 35 | Min 23 | Humidity 64% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 72,404 | Nifty 21,957 | Gold 72,160 | Silver 85,200 | Dollar 83.50 | Euro 98.95 | GBP 104.20

Each metro train can accommodate 1,626 passengers, but during peak hours many passengers are left struggling to board; BMRCL operates just 47 trains as against its projection of 78 trains

ALL LINES IN THIS ROUTE ARE BUSY

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As the demand for Namma Metro trains surges, the evident shortage of trains has become a pressing issue. This scarcity is particularly felt during peak hours, leading to overcrowding at stations and on trains.

Initially, Namma Metro trains comprised three coaches. However, as ridership increased significantly, all trains were converted to six coaches. Despite this upgrade, even the six-coach trains fall short during peak hours, unable to accommodate the influx of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

CITY / PAGE 2

TURNING GREEN

Citizens plant saplings, nurture them to turn area into eco-friendly habitat

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	2-step rear reclining seat	✓	✗	✗
	Power Windows - Driver side auto up-down with safety	✓	✗	✗
	Puddle lamps	✓	✗	✓
	Auto healthy air purifier	✓	✗	✓
	Front map lamps	✓	✓	✗
	Leather wrapped gear knob	✓	✗	✗
	Lane change indicator	✓	✗	✗
N	Next level technology & Connectivity: 60+ Bluelink features	✓	✓	✗
	Sounds of nature	✓	✗	✗
	Home to car (H2C) with Alexa & Google Voice Assistant	✓	✗	✗
	Firmware Over-the-Air (FOTA) update	✓	✗	✓
U	Uncompromised Safety: Cornering lamps	✓	✗	✗
	Brake Assist System (BAS)	✓	✗	✗
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Together, they turn concrete jungle into lush, green patch

Citizens' concerted efforts lead to flourishing of 100 trees that now attract diverse bird life and foster vibrant community space in Brindavan Layout

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Saplings and trees planted around Brindavan Layout

Brindavan Layout, located at TC Palya near Ramamurthy Nagar, was akin to any other layout in the city. Until 2018, it resembled a concrete jungle. However, it now proudly hosts around 100 well-grown trees and saplings, offering refreshing shade to residents and children seeking respite on the concrete benches. These trees have become a magnet for various bird species.

The residents, led by Padma and Kavita Pozhathu, planted around 40 saplings on the birthday of a child in 2018. They have been adding 20 saplings every year and have been taking care of those saplings added every year.

"We planted more than 40 saplings in our layout on my daughter's birthday in the year 2018 and added a few more every year on Environment Day, making it to 100 saplings till date. Initial saplings were provided by Janet Yegneswaran of Reforest India. Sreeram M, known for watering many saplings on Mannam Nagar Road, has helped us dig pits for planting saplings. Now we get saplings from the forest department from Whitefield in June," said Padma, a resident.

Kavita Pozhathu, who played a key role in ensuring the saplings grow into trees, has said the layout looks nice, and she is very happy to see the trees attracting many birds. "We have made provision to provide water for birds and cows. We are monitoring the growth of saplings and taking measures to ensure tree guards are in good condition to prevent stray cattle from damaging saplings. We are also encouraging residents to plant saplings in front of their homes by providing saplings free of cost. We will continue planting saplings every year," said Pozhathu.

The volunteers of Brindavan Layout have ensured tree guards are mandatory to prevent cattle from eating small saplings and vehicles from running over them. They selected places for planting saplings where there are no electric cables and drainage.

"Some plants were removed while asphalting the roads. We replanted saplings at such places where the saplings were removed. One kid and a neighbor watered a sapling that was damaged when garbage was burnt near it. Now it has grown into a tree. Tree guards are vulnerable to damage or displacement during the monsoon. We take measures to keep the tree guards in place," said Padma. She said that some children came forward to water the saplings, but it didn't work out as dogs bark, and the children were scared to go alone and water the saplings. "Overall, planting is easy, but growing and maintaining take time. But the satisfaction you get from seeing the saplings growing into trees can't be explained, and remember we are helping to provide oxygen for us and the next generation," she said.

> **"We monitor growth of saplings, ensure that tree guards are in good condition to prevent cattle from damaging saplings**
> – Kavita Pozhathu, group member

The residents of Brindavan Layout are happy to see many well-grown trees in the layout. "There are around 500 families residing in the layout. Now, the layout looks nice and green. Children are happily cycling under the cool shade of trees. Senior citizens are spending leisure time under the trees," said Chandrasekhar V, a resident.

Bengaluru, the weather has turned romantic. How about some lilting music to soothe your soul? Well, your favourite singer Shreya Ghoshal is coming to town on May 11. We have managed to reserve 3 couple passes for our most favourite people our readers. All you have to do, is this: **Scan this QR code to FOLLOW US on our Instagram page.** Send us an answer with contact details on direct message on our page. Or **whatsapp** it to us at **9591233247.**

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Electric evening

Catch the electrifying performance by Camacho in Bangalore! This dynamic band is set to light up the stage with their energetic music and captivating presence. Don't miss out on this unforgettable night of live music and entertainment. **When- May 11, 5 pm onwards**
Where- The Lalit Ashok

BMRCL revives community hall for KSRP

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is on the verge of completing the rebuilding of a community hall for the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) at Silk Board junction.

BMRCL had partially demolished a portion of the uncompleted community hall as it had to acquire the said land for works of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) line. Now, completion of the community hall is seeing the light of day and once entirely finished, it will be handed over to the KSRP for them to make use of. At present, the KSRP is considering using the community hall as a marriage hall and a space for their lot to come together for other events.

The BMRCL had acquired 8,633 sqm from the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) at Hebbal. In return for the acquisition, BMRCL had compensated the road transport corporation by providing land after acquiring 7,889 sqm from the KSRP and 3,055 sqm from the BDA. The additional land was provided to the BMTC as they required it to operate a depot. In order to compensate KSRP, BMRCL made the decision to build the community hall which stood on the acquired land, partially completed. While the project had to be finished by July 2022, it has been delayed due to various reasons including the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, shortage of labor, and increase in expected costs.

Community hall under construction (file photo)

BMRCL is in the process of receiving drinking water and sanitary connections from the sewerage board and electricity connection from BESCOM. Venkatraman Associates had taken up the project which is valued at nearly Rs 25 crore. The community hall is one-storey, air-conditioned, and has the ability to accommodate many vehicles with adequate parking space. The BMRCL will also be purchasing furniture and other interior requirements as well as kitchen equipment.

— BMB

02 Poetry and prose

Embrace the power of words and immerse yourself in the art of poetry. Whether you're a seasoned poet or a newcomer, all are welcome to share their creativity and passion for literature. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow poetry enthusiasts and celebrate the beauty of language. **When- May 11**
Where- Dialogues Cafe, JP Nagar

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BDA's 'complex' plan has not gone down too well

Controversy erupts as BDA revives redevelopment plans despite citizens' opposition

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File photo of the Indiranagar BDA complex

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is set to turn seven BDA complexes across the city into shopping malls and office spaces. While officials have noted that the objective behind the move is to generate more revenue, as the rental yield of these complexes is currently low, residents have opposed the initiative, deeming it unnecessary. Indiranagar residents have been at the forefront in raising their voice against the commercialisation.

Out of the seven complexes, six, including the ones situated in Koramangala, HSR Layout, RT Nagar, and Sadashivnagar, are leased to Bengaluru-based M-FAR Developers. On the other hand, a consortium of Maverick Holdings and Embassy Group will redevelop the Indira Nagar complex. The agreement will stand good for 60 years. The BDA is expecting Rs 40 crore in revenue per year once the redevelopment project takes place, which will be taken up by the private entities under their own funds. It has decided to allow two to 21 times more build-up on these seven complexes, depending on the total area of the particular complex and the width of the road that acts as a connection to it. For instance, the Indiranagar complex will have two towers. One of them will consist of 10 floors designated for offices, while the other will have five floors dedicated to shopping and other entertainment purposes. The Sadashivnagar complex, which currently is only one floor tall, will be redeveloped to have three floors.

> **We have been raising concerns over the potential increase in vehicular traffic the project will bring in. As it is on an arterial road, it is unlikely congestion can be regulated** –Swarna, I Change

The controversial move, initially proposed in 2018, was put on hold due to reasons, including changes of governments, the Covid pandemic, and strong opposition from Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs). However, with the project being revived, RWAs have called on authorities to reconsider and roll back.

Swarna, a member of I Change, a federation of RWAs in and around Indiranagar, told Bangalore Mirror that they have been opposing the project since 2018. She noted that while Indiranagar was a completely residential colony a handful of decades ago, it has now turned into a mixed zone. "The 100 and 80 feet roads, Old Madras Road, CMH road, among many others, have now turned commercial legally, with clauses that dictate their activity. As a consequence, there is a mushrooming of illegal commercialisation on residential bylanes. What is the need to add more commercialisation to the area? There are also malls such as RMZ within a fair distance from the complex," she said.

Furthermore, Swarna noted that the authorities have not bothered to hold a public consultation regarding the matter. "We have been raising concerns over the potential increase in vehicular traffic the project will bring in. Being present on an arterial road, it is highly unlikely for authorities to be able to control congestion with regulations. Along with this, environmental aspects such as noise and overall pollution must also be taken into account. Many trees within the complex are older than the concrete structure itself," she said, urging the authority to instead refurbish the complex and turn it into a space for community events to take place. "The mandate of BDA is to make colonies livable. They are well aware of the public unrest with respect to the particular project, across the city. While they are custodians of the land, we are the owners. RWAs are also concerned about whether the project will lead to prioritising public utilities such as electricity and water resources towards the complex development," she explained.

Drizzles keep pouring misery on Cox Town

Demands rise for urgent drainage overhaul after constant waterlogging after any spell of rain

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Water-logging in the drains after Wednesday's rain in Cox Town

Residents of Buddha Vihar Road, Cox Town, have raised serious concerns over the recurring problem of waterlogging in their locality following heavy rains. The issue has been plaguing the area for years, with residents facing hardships due to flooding that seeps into their homes.

A long-time resident, who has lived in the area for 35 years, expressed the challenges faced by the community, stating, "We have been put through a lot of hardships because of the overflowing stormwater drains on the opposite side. We had to demolish and reconstruct our house for our own safety and hygiene, yet the problem persists."

Residents attribute the waterlogging to the poorly maintained stormwater drain in front of their houses. They recall a time over 20 years ago when regular desilting ensured that the road remained free from slush after rainfall. However, in recent years, proper desilting has not been carried out, exacerbating the issues faced by residents.

The presence of a divider in front of their houses aggravates the problem, as it holds the stormwater floods and prevents them from draining into the larger drain. This situation has doubled the misery for residents, causing prolonged waterlogging that disrupts traffic on the main road and creates grievances for both the public and residents.

Similar complaints were echoed by residents near Sundermurthy Road, where the entire stretch was submerged, rendering it unusable for commuters. This road connects Assaye Road and Cox Town, serving as a vital thoroughfare for the area. "We always have a problem with that road waterlogging when it rains, and people from all areas come to dump garbage, used sofa sets, park, and abandoned vehicles, etc.," lamented a resident.

"The persistent water-logging not only inconveniences but also poses health and safety risks. The stagnant water becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other pests, increasing the likelihood of vector-borne diseases. Moreover, the accumulation of debris and waste exacerbates the situation, further obstructing drainage and exacerbating the flooding," said another resident.

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Dirty bridge
Residency Road

The foot overbridge requires deep cleaning once the rains start, and the public should be discouraged/ cautioned against spitting pan on public property.

Blocked passage
Kalyan Nagar

A stone has been placed in front of a car, blocking a passage, opposite the Park on Kalyan Nagar 2nd Cross.

Garbage everywhere
Jayanagar

Garbage dumping by the public is observed near the 4th block. BBMP needs to take action immediately.

UGC asks all colleges to set up internal complaints panel

Special Women's Cell needed to address gender sensitisation too

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

More awareness on harassment needed on campuses

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed higher educational institutions to establish an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and a dedicated Special Women's Cell to address gender-based violence and conduct gender sensitisation programs. Additionally, institutions are required to prominently display banners and posters within their premises to raise awareness among employees regarding sexual harassment and preventive measures.

Manish Joshi, Secretary of UGC said, "We are highlighting the importance of addressing sexual harassment at workplaces in compliance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013. This legislation aims to ensure a safe and dignified environment for women, safeguarding their fundamental rights under Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Indian Constitution. Furthermore, UGC has issued the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015, published in the Gazette of India and available on the UGC website. These regulations outline the responsibilities of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), procedures for lodging complaints, conducting inquiries, interim redressal, disciplinary actions, and consequences for non-compliance. As per Regulation 4(1) of these regulations, every Executive Authority in HEIs must establish an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) with provisions for gender sensitization against sexual harassment."

In response, colleges are required to visibly display the names and contact details of ICC members on notice boards. They must also install billboards illustrating the penalties for sexual harassment, along with toll-free and dedicated phone numbers for reporting incidents and accessing support services. Additionally, Women's Helpline Number 181 and Emergency Response Support Number 112 should be prominently displayed for women in distress, ensuring swift assistance and intervention.

Ban on e-cigarettes on campuses

Meanwhile, UGC has reiterated the institutions to strictly ban e-cigarettes. "The Government of India has enacted the "Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage, and Advertisement) Act, 2019," effectively banning electronic cigarettes and similar devices. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has consistently urged states and union territories to enforce this legislation diligently. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, electronic cigarettes continue to be available through online platforms and local vendors, a concerning trend. Reports indicate that these products are also being sold near educational institutions, making them easily accessible to young individuals. This accessibility of prohibited items necessitates immediate measures to uphold the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2019," Joshi said.

He said that use of electronic cigarettes poses significant health risks, especially among youth. "It is imperative for our education system to actively educate students about the dangers associated with e-cigarette usage, aligning with the provisions of the PECA, 2019. Additionally, random checks and special drives should be conducted at higher education institutions to prevent the use of these products.

Karnataka decides to stop 4-year degree programme

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In a significant development, the Karnataka government has decided to discontinue the four-year degree programme in the state. This decision comes after widespread opposition from students, teachers, and education experts. The government issued a government order on Wednesday, officially putting an end to the programme.

The move to revoke the four-year degree programme, which was introduced as part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, marks a victory for the students' movement.

Aradhya, a student representative, expressed triumph, stating, "Cancellation of the four-year degree means victory to students' movement led by AIDSO! This was only an extra year of financial burden for us. Now, it eases us off. Our efforts paid off."

Hamsa, another student, highlighted the challenges students faced under the four-year degree system, saying, "Our syllabus, curriculum, exams schedule under the four-year degree was too haphazard and vast. Without any preparation, this policy was introduced to us. We have borne enough of difficulties under this. We are happy that from 2024 batch, students will not have to go through all this."

The government order restricts degree programs in the state to three years, eliminating the option of a fourth-year degree program. However, the government is yet to decide on the multiple entry and exit options allowed under the NEP, which enable students to earn certificates, diplomas, and degrees based on their progression through the academic years. Importantly, the changes will not affect current students enrolled in the academic years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023.

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Tale of 'carrot and stick' approach

SSLC exams witnesses 30% dip in results and grace marks boost results

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The SSLC exams of 2024 will be remembered as the 'carrot and stick' exams. Initially, the education department opted for a strict approach (enhancing security measures), resulting in a drastic 30% decline in results, one of the lowest in history. Subsequently, officials introduced grace marks to improve the results further.

Although the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) did not provide specific details regarding the actual outcome, officials indicated a 30% decrease compared to the previous year's results of 83.89%, resulting in a mere 53.89% pass rate this year. However, with the inclusion of grace marks, the pass rate increased to 73.40%, still lower than in 2019-20.

An official said, "We introduced webcasting via CCTVs across all exam centres. Control rooms were established in every district to oversee the live feed. This measure has significantly enhanced the exam's credibility. However, the pass percentage saw a decline of 30% compared to the previous year."

Sources indicated that a segment of officials and the government expressed apprehension about the low results. An official further explained, "Subsequently, it was agreed to lower the passing criteria for eligibility for grace marks, reducing it from the existing 35% to 25%. Additionally, the allocation of grace marks was raised from 10% to 20% across all subjects as a one-time measure for all SSLC students. Following the normalisation process, the pass percentage increased to 73.40%."

File photo of day one of the SSLC exam at Seshadripuram High School in Bengaluru

Bangalore Mirror
Exams will be webcast, copycats better beware
117 of 567 SSLC exam centres equipped for webcasting to put stop to mass copying

Bangalore Mirror was the first to report that the exams will be webcast to prevent mass copying

D Shashi Kumar, the general secretary of the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools, expressed his disappointment with move to award grace marks. He told Bangalore Mirror, "The recent SSLC results have left me feeling quite disheartened. It seems somewhat futile for the education department to attribute the decrease in pass percentage solely to the implementation of strict measures during the exams. While I understand the need for maintaining integrity and preventing malpractice, we must also consider the broader picture. The primary issue lies in the readiness and preparation of our students. Despite years of teaching and investing in their education, it's concerning to see a decline in their learning levels. This raises questions about the effectiveness of our teaching methods, curriculum, and overall approach to education."

He said the concept of grace marks also warrants scrutiny as though it may provide temporary relief by boosting pass percentages, it does little to address the root cause of students' academic challenges.

He added that instead of relying on band-aid solutions like grace marks, the government and education authorities should focus on enhancing the quality of education. "This includes revisiting and potentially amending policies like the Right to Education (RTE) Act to ensure that students receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for the challenges of the future. One area that deserves attention is the reintroduction of pass-fail systems at critical stages of education, such as the fifth and eighth standards. This not only provides a clearer assessment of students' progress but also instills a sense of accountability and motivation to strive for excellence. Additionally, we must address the issue of students' engagement in non-academic activities that detract from their studies."

He said failing to address these fundamental issues now could have far-reaching consequences for the quality of education and the future prospects of our students.

One-time measure

However, officials claim that this will be a one-time measure. "Starting next year, teachers and students will be better equipped and prepared for the new system, and extensive normalisation will not be required. As a remedial action, the education department will conduct corrective teaching sessions over the next month for students who did not perform well in the first exam or those aiming to improve their marks. This initiative aims to better prepare students for the second and third exams. Since we have already introduced the new pattern of exams one, two, and three, students who do not pass after exams two and three will have their result displayed as NC (not completed), and the best marks among the three exams will be awarded to the student," explained an official.

Topper wants to become IAS officer

Ankita Basappa Konnuru, from Mudhol in Bagalkot, achieved an exceptional feat by securing 625 out of 625 in her SSLC exams. She stands out as the lone student to achieve this remarkable milestone this year. This is a record for a government school student securing the first rank. She studied at Morarji Desai Residential School.

Ankita shared insights into her journey to academic excellence with Bangalore Mirror. She initially aimed for a high percentage, setting her sights on achieving around 99%. Ankita's approach to studying is notable for its consistency and focus. "Unlike many students who opt for intense study sessions followed by breaks, I believed in a daily routine of dedicated study hours without breaks. This consistent effort, coupled with a strong grasp of concepts by January, allowed me to begin revising in February, well-prepared for my exams," she said.

Ankita with her parents

Mark this

Pass rate for SSLC exams 73.40%	Female students passed 81.11%	Udupi district 90%
6.31 lakh students passed	Male students 65.90%	Bengaluru South: Ranked 12th with a pass rate of 79.82%, and Bengaluru North ranked 14th with 77.09%
Total students 8.69 lakh	Rural students 74.17%	
	Urban students 72.83%	

Ankita attributes her success also to the support and resources provided by her school. Morarji Desai Residential School played a crucial role in her academic journey by providing her with question banks and access to smart classes. Ankita has set her sights on pursuing the science stream in PU and has a goal in mind: to become an IAS officer. Her teachers said Ankita's story serves as an inspiration to all. **— Sridhar Vivan**

Purple line needs 43 trains, has only 25

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

commuters. Each six-coach train has a capacity of 1,626 passengers, yet these trains often reach full capacity from the starting point or early stations, leaving passengers at subsequent stations struggling to board.

Currently, the Metro network operates 47 trains, a notable shortfall from the 78 trains projected in the 2011 project report by BMRCL. This inadequacy is especially pronounced on the purple line, spanning Challaghatta to Whitefield, the longest and busiest route with only 25 trains whereas 43 are deemed necessary. Similarly, the green line connecting Silk Institute to Nagasandra operates with 22 trains, facing a shortage of 13. According to BMRCL's Detailed Project Report (DPR) of 2003, the metro system required 270 bogies for 33 km of operations by 2021, including 356 trains on the purple and green lines. However, the current reality falls significantly short, with only 47 trains operational.

Each six-bogie train can carry 1,626 passengers, with a coach length of 22 metres accommodating approximately 286 seated passengers and the remainder standing. However, during peak hours, this number exceeds 2,500 passengers per train. Presently, trains run every five minutes during peak hours and every 15 minutes during non-peak times. Unlike the Delhi Metro, designed to accommodate eight-coach trains on its platforms, Namma Metro platforms in Bengaluru are constructed for 135 metres, limiting them to six-coach trains only. This design constraint prevents the addition of two extra coaches similar to the Delhi Metro's setup. Sources reveal that the Chinese company CRRC has manufactured just two trains (12 bogies), with one currently undergoing testing on the yellow line.

Non-fare revenue

Meanwhile, BMRCL is strategising to boost its revenues by offering companies the opportunity to name stations after them for shorter durations, ranging from two to five years. Currently, BMRCL has already entered into agreements with three companies along the yellow line (RV Road to Bommasandra) and one company on the pink line for a long-term partnership. The organisation has expressed its intention to seek additional revenue streams by providing corporates and developers with co-branding opportunities at metro stations situated along the Namma Metro corridor. This initiative aims to enhance BMRCL's non-fare revenue through various revenue-generating activities beyond the regular farebox revenue. Some of the explored options include offering naming rights such as prefixes or suffixes to station names, leasing retail and advertisement spaces, providing announcements, and allowing station painting for a duration of five years.

BMRCL currently has partnerships with various organisations for several Metro stations. For instance, BMRCL has tied has collaborated with Infosys Foundation for Rs 100 crore for Konappana Agrahara Metro station entitling them to naming rights, commercial space, advertisement space, and direct walkway access for a 30-year period. Similarly, at the Hebbagodi station, BMRCL has a partnership with Biocon Foundation for Rs 65 crore, providing naming rights for 30 years. Additionally, for Bommasandra Metro station, the tie-up is with Delta Electronics India Pvt Ltd for Rs 75 crore, including naming rights and direct walkway access for 30 years. Lastly, for Lakkasandra Metro station, the partnership is with BOSCH Limited for Rs 10 crore, offering direct walkway access for 30 years.

A role he hated— Actor Chris Pine once worked at a restaurant before finding success in Hollywood. However, he has now shared that he hated it and wasn't a "people person" at the time. "I was a host at a restaurant and just hated it

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Cannes do this

Aditi Rao Hydari ready to attend 77th edition of Cannes film festival

Actor Aditi Rao Hydari is all set to mark her presence at the prestigious 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival.

Aditi will join the film festival as an ambassador of L'Oreal Paris.

Aditi made her Cannes debut in 2022. She served gorgeous looks on the red carpet of the festival. She attended the film festival last year as well. In 2023, her first look at Cannes - off the red carpet - was a dreamy blue confection by Oscar De La Renta which she wore for a L'Oreal shoot.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Aditi is being lauded for her performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's web series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'.

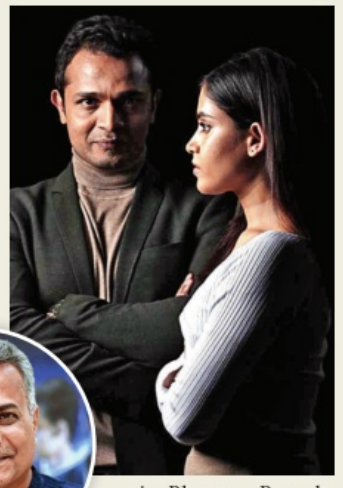
The 'Padmaavat' actor is happy to reunite with Bhansali and said that it is an incredible experience to work with him.

Speaking to ANI, Aditi shared, "He creates such beautiful, immersive worlds. He gets the best out of his actors. What makes 'Heeramandi' so special is that there are so many stories to tell and each about a very unique woman. And Sanjay Sir really gives a lot of dignity to his female characters and their stories," she said.

"He believes every woman, despite where she comes from, deserves to be treated like a queen. And her story is worth telling with a lot of dignity, pride and courage. So, to be a part of 'Heeramandi' and to be with Sanjay Sir, to surrender to him, to learn from him was incredible and I feel very blessed for it. I love Sanjay Sir and it was amazing working with him," she added.

—ANI

Grey Games for all categories of audiences: Anand H Mugad



Anand H Mugad, who has a corporate background, makes debut as a concept writer and producer in Sandalwood with Kannada movie Grey Games which is scheduled for release across the state on May 10. The movie is bankrolled by Anand H Mugad under the banner of DEES Films. It is written and directed by Gangadhar Salimath.

Producer Anand H Mugad said that he is very happy with director Gangadhar Salimath for ensuring all elements that connect with the audiences who watch this movie at theaters. He said that he has been watching the gaming space closely and the way software is developed and it helped him to come up with the concept for Grey Games.

"The movie has all elements that connect emotionally with audiences of all age groups. Vijay Raghavendra plays a psychologist in Grey Games. It is the first time Vijay Raghavendra has played such a character in his acting career. His nephew Jai makes his debut in Sandalwood with this movie. Bhavana Rao plays a cop. The movie Grey Games is contemporary and relates to the present generation. Nowadays, many people are aware of online games. The movie intends to throw some light on the impact of such games," said the producer.

The movie features Vijay Raghavendra, Bhavana Rao, Shruthi Prakash, Jai, Aparna Vastarey, Ishita Singh. Music is composed by Doleshwar Raj, Ashwin Hemanth, Shriyansh Shreeram.

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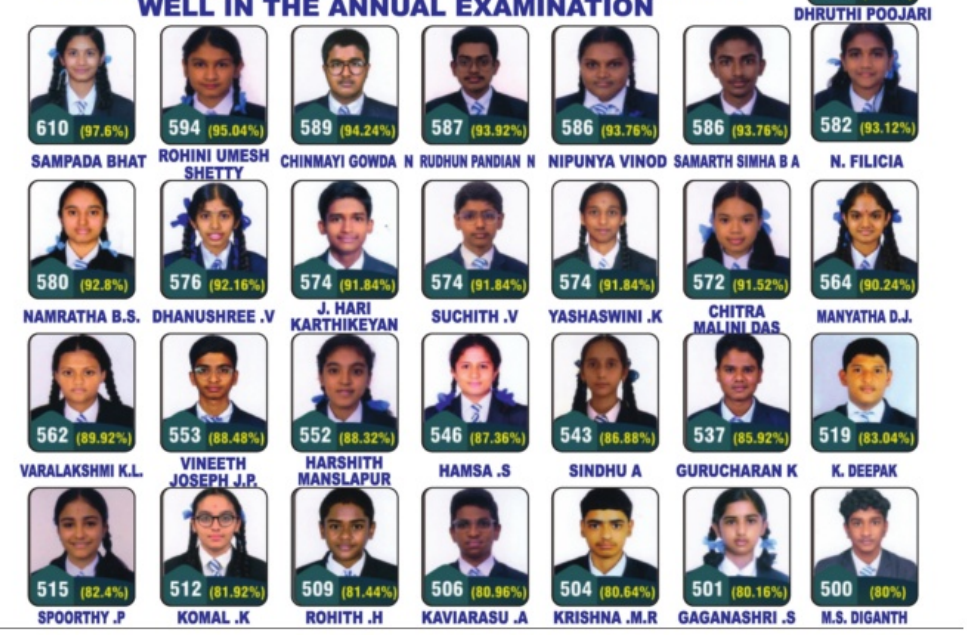
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, V.Sandya Rani W/o Ganesh Vudayagiri, R/at Flat No.G7, Prabhavathi Shadow Apt, BTS layout, Arekere, B'lore-560076. My husband name wrongly mentioned in my Driving license as V.Ganesh instead of Ganesh Vudayagiri. Hereby Declare that my Husband's correct name is Ganesh Vudayagiri for Future Documents vide affidavit dtd 07.05.24 Sworn before Notary Prakasha.C, Bengaluru.

I, Mahamedsadiq R/at No 136 Near Library Jakkur Banga lore 560064 Have Changed My Name To Mohammed Sadiq. For All Purposes.

WE, Mohan Kumar P and Shruthi Mohan Kumar, resid ing at No.46, Anugraha, 7th Cross, 5th Main, Shambavi nagar, GKW Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560058 have changed our minor son's name from M NISHWANTH KUMAR to NISHWANTH KUMAR M S, vide affidavit dated 08.05.2024 sworn before notary P.C Ramaiah, B.lore.

I am Mohan.K.S,S/o Shankaran.K, DOB 02-11-1988, Residing at B 21/12 phase-1,DRDO complex,c v Raman Nagar,Bengaluru 560093,Shall henceforth be known as MOHAN.S, (expansion of initial S is SHANKARAN. [father])sworn to affidavit dated 6.5.2024 before notary UdayKumar K, Bengaluru.

I, ANISHA JONDHALE D/o Arvind Nivruttirao Jondhale And Sheela Arivind Jondhale R/o #17 , 2nd Main, 5th Cross, Krishanappa Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, RT Nagar Post, B'luru-560032 have changed my name as given name : ANISHA ARVIND and Surname as JONDHALE.

I Soundharya S D/o, Shankar N R/o 1/7 Door Number, 1st Cross, 1st Main Road, Kalappa Block, Ramachandrapuram, Bengaluru 560021 have changed my name to Soundarya S for all purposes.

I, Maria Alias Sheeba, W/o. Raghu Gunashekhar, R/o. #46, 14th Main, Aadharsha L/o, Hongasandra, B'lore-068, have changed my name to MARIA SHEEBA vide affidavit Dtd: 09/05/24 before Notary M. Rajendra, B'lore.

I, Kailash Kumar Jain Bhandari R/o No.66, Sankeshwar villa, Rama Iyengar road, Sajjan Rao circle, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to Kailash Bhandari Affidavit Dt.08/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Neha Nitin Hegde D/O, Hema Nitin Hegde R/o No 9/a Mookambika Nilaya, 11th A Cross, Sp Extension, H.n. Layout, Malleshwaram Bangalore-560003. have changed my name to Neha Hegde.

I, Ashwin Santanagopalan Sundaresan s/o Sundaresan R/o Villa-23, NVT Life Square, Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, B'luru-560066 have changed my name to Ashwin Santanagopalan for all Purposes.

I AKHILA GANESH PASSPORT NO F1283004 R/O F 303 ROHAN IKSHA BHOGANAHALLI RD BENGALURU KARNATAKA-560103 DO HERE BY CHANGE MY NAME AS AKHILA VENKATESWARAN

I Gayatri Bhadauria W/O, Ravindra Pal Singh Bhadoria R/o #21/2, 1st Cross, Siraj Layout, Shikaripalya, Hulimangla-p Jigani Hobli, Anekal-t Bangalore-560105 have changed my name to Gayatri Devi.

I, Narayan Balasundaram Nusale S/o Balasundaram R/o #204 2nd Floor Prerana Apts 1st Cross Revenue Layout Bsk 3rd Stg 5th Block B'lore 560085 have changed my name to Narayan for All Purposes

I, Vighnesha S/o Krishnayya Achari R/o No.4-48, Kodi Road, Hangloor, Kundapura, Udupi-576217, have changed my name to VIGHNESHA ACHAR vide affidavit dtd: 09/05/24 before notary M. Rajendra, B'lore.

I, Thammesha M Channappa R/o No.10, 3rd cross, Swamy Vivekanandanagar, Amruth - nagar, D Munishamappa Lyt, Bengaluru 560092 have changed my name to Thammesh Gowda Hosahudya Channappa affidavit Dt.08/05/2024 notary, Harisha G, B'luru

I Amit Arora S/o Bharati Arora R/o 002 Ocean Pearl apartment 4th Cross Bda layout Old Airport Road, B'lore- 17 have changed my name to Amitt Arora for all purposes

I Harinder Singh R/O #302 T2, Salarpuria Cadenza, Kudlu Gate, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to Harinder Singh Dhillon

I, Syed Irshad R/o No 52/4 11th Cross Amc Main Road K G Halli, Kushal Nagar A C Post, Bengaluru have changed my minor son's name from Mohammed Zaid to Syed Zaid.

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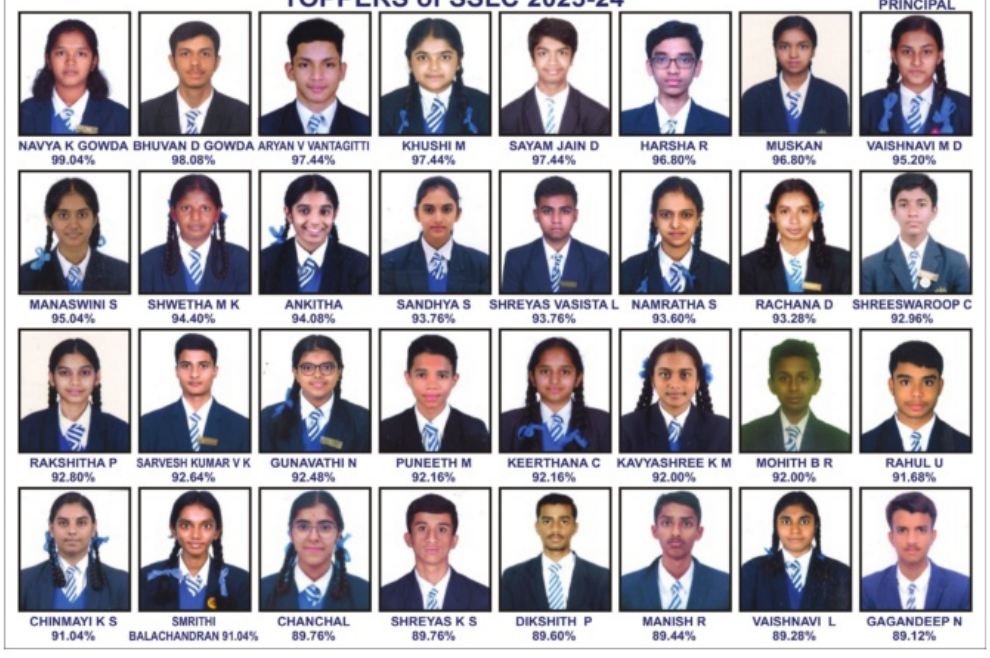

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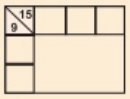
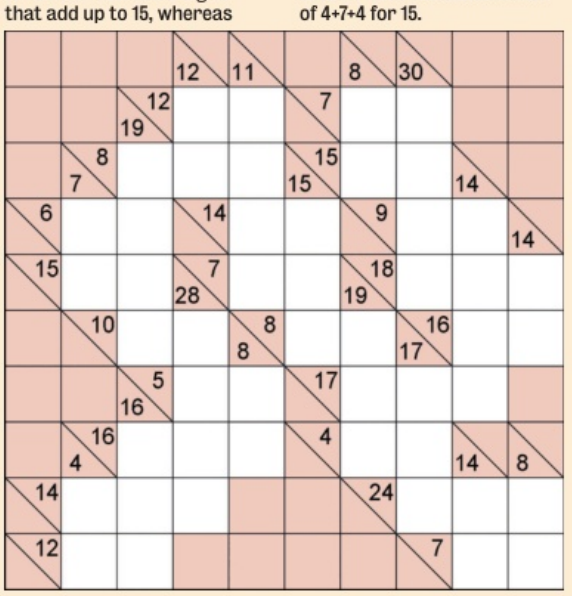
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

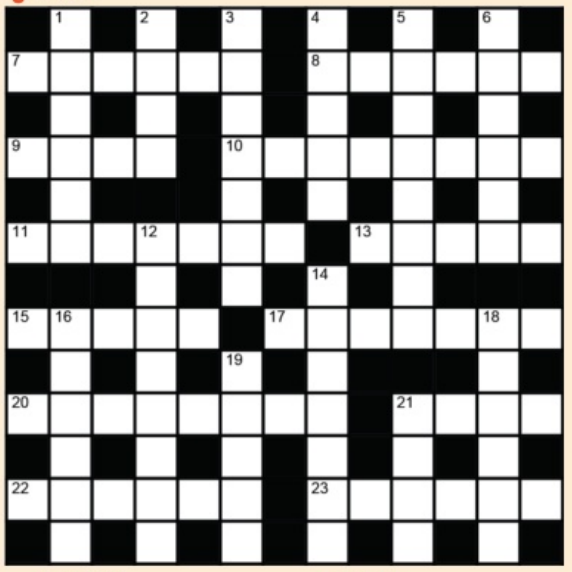


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Capital of Manipur (6)
8 Rules as a monarch (6)
9 Nervous and apprehensive (4)
10 Resounded (2-6)
11 Have a speech impediment (7)
13 Pay out money (5)
15 Smelly creature? (5)
17 Capital of Kenya (7)
20 Booklet or pamphlet (8)
21 Cause of misery (4)
22 Hand-gun (6)
23 Statues lacking heads and limbs (6)

DOWN

1 Among, in the company of (6)
2 Third person pronoun (4)
3 Spoke indistinctly (7)
4 Hail, accost or salute (5)
5 City in Saurashtra (8)
6 Invisible (6)
12 Doggedness (8)
14 Grieves or cries over (7)
16 Sesame Street frog (6)
18 Rely or depend upon (4,2)
19 Bengaluru ___ : Our Pro Kabaddi league side (5)
21 Flying creature (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS H

ZB PZW PWSAJ ABNR ZXIZ OSMH HNCB N AWEI GSE.

Linemaro

Do you have a name, or do angels just have pretty faces?

Mindchow

If you can't stop thinking about it, don't stop working on it

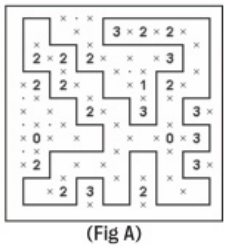
Joke of the day

A celebrity is a person known to many people he's glad he doesn't know

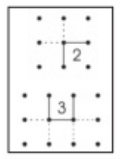
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

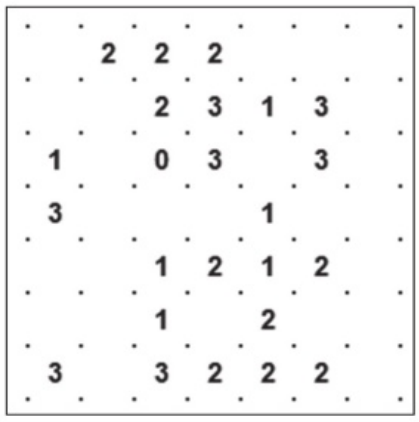


(Fig B) Not Allowed

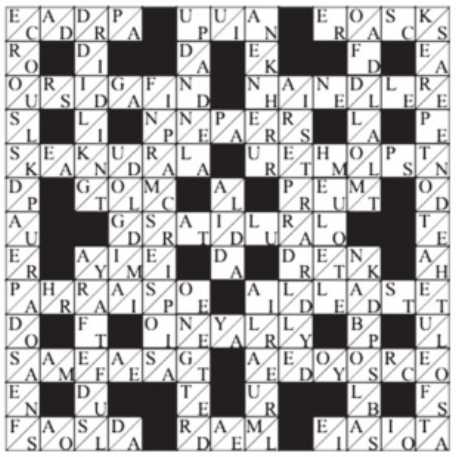
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



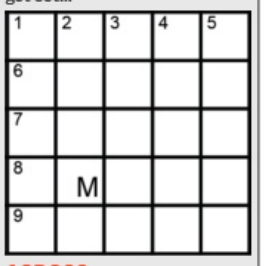
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

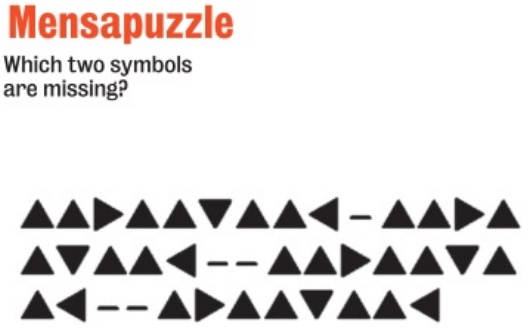
1 Cheap; 6 Lutra;
7 R beet; 8 I dime;
9 Ocas I

DOWN

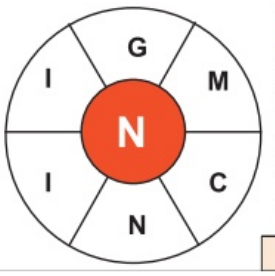
1 Cub pi; 2 Emile;
3 Tiara; 4 Cored;
5 Haste

Mensapuzzle

Which two symbols are missing?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

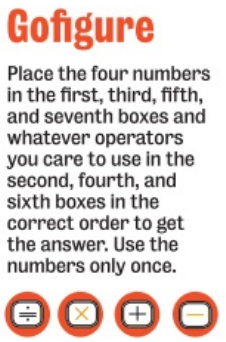
SudokuChallenge

6				4				3
		3	5		6	4		
	4	7				5	9	
	1	2				6	5	
			2		5			
	7	4				9	3	
	6	1				2	8	
		5	9		4	3		
9				6				5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

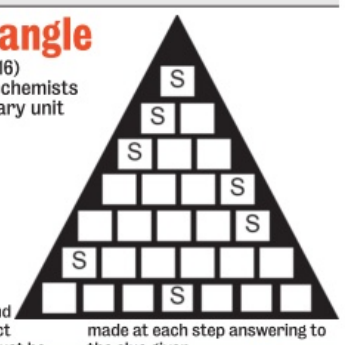
Differences: 1. Potato chip bag is moved. 2. TV screen is smaller. 3. Flap on top of box is missing. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Shirt is different.

Riddler

What connects these four things?
Canine Freight Often Stone

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number (16)
2 Selenium for the chemists
3 Japanese monetary unit
4 Lairs
5 Eats
6 Author Sheldon
7 Compactness



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

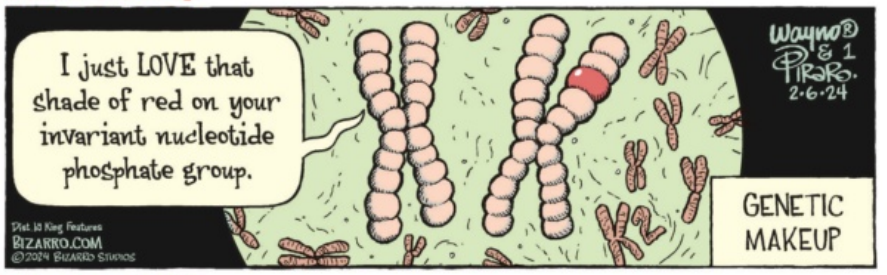
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

THIS HEADPIECE CHANGES ME INTO VELMA OF VENUS...IT EVEN GIVES ME THE POWER TO FLY!
I POINT MY FINGER AND FLY IN THE DIRECTION I POINT!
OH, DEAR...I'LL HAVE TO WATCH WHERE I POINT!
8-16

Bizarrotrip


I just LOVE that shade of red on your invariant nucleotide phosphate group.
GENETIC MAKEUP
Wayno & Piraro 2·6·24
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
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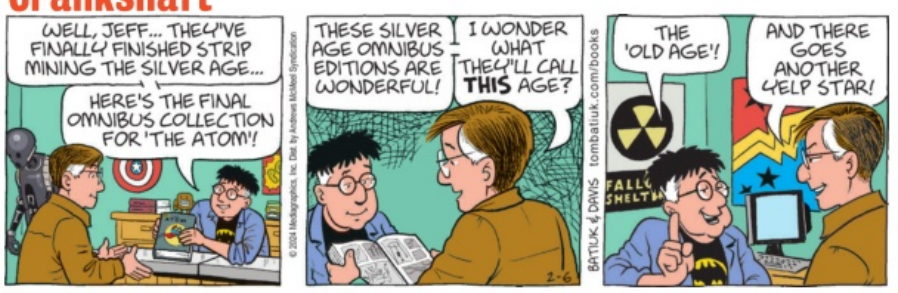
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

MY DAD ASKED IF I WANTED TO GO TO BALTIMORE WITH HIM.
HMM... BUT YOUR DAD SOMETIMES... SUCKS.
AAUUGGHH! I KNOW...
BUT "SOMETIMES" ISN'T ALL OF THE TIME!
ONE COULD SAY THAT IT'S ONLY SOME OF THE TIME.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL

Crankshaft


WELL, JEFF... THEY'VE FINALLY FINISHED STRIP MINING THE SILVER AGE...
HERE'S THE FINAL OMNIBUS COLLECTION FOR 'THE ATOM'!
THESE SILVER AGE OMNIBUS EDITIONS ARE WONDERFUL!
I WONDER WHAT THEY'LL CALL THIS AGE?
THE 'OLD AGE'!
AND THERE GOES ANOTHER YELP STAR!
BATUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
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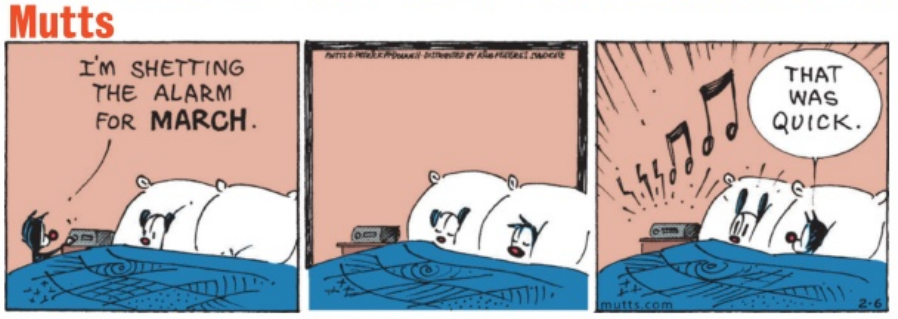
Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, sleeplessness may lead to laziness and carelessness, affecting inner strength. Nervousness at work could impact projects, so avoid investments in dead assets and spicy food, and refrain from rush driving.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, blessed by the moon, you may have the internal strength to make difficult decisions at work. Disputes with partners may be resolved, and singles may find a good match with help from relatives or friends. Expect investments in your business from external sources.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, confidence derived from inner strength will enhance your work. Good news in legal matters and recovered finances may boost savings. Ensure kid's health is good and avoid unnecessary arguments in domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, expect gains from past investments and consider renovating home or office. Invest in intellectual assets like books or knowledge updates, and plan for higher studies. Singles may find soulmates in similar fields, and those in research, education, or agriculture may excel.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel unhappy and be a victim of arrogance, affecting both personal and professional life. Pressure may be felt, and detachment from responsibilities may be noticeable. Impatience at work is likely, so take care of your parents and postpone important decisions related to work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be happy as property issues with siblings settle down. Meeting influential people could aid your work, and professional contacts may help grow your business. Trust your intuition before investing in fixed assets and expect short work-related travel.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, busy with family and friends, you may plan outings or adventure tours. Concerns about kids' health might arise, but the moon's blessing may guide you to success, increasing your savings and financial health.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, filled with vitality and inner strength, you may plan for family business growth with elders' blessings. Wise decisions may enhance your social status, and implementing new plans efficiently is likely with team support.

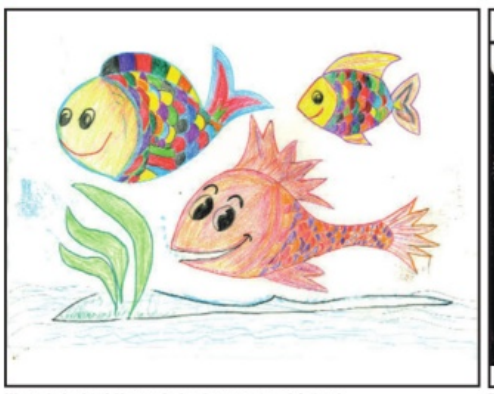
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, health issues from sleeplessness may cause mental tiredness and laziness, affecting commitments. Avoid rush driving and overspending on worthless items, and focus on rest and recovery.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, social gatherings and reunions with old friends may strengthen your network, benefiting future work prospects. Those in export, import, glamour, and artifacts may excel, and students may perform well academically. Love birds can enjoy happy moments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, expect family support and potential expansion in family business, improving social status. Planning for a new child may enhance family bonding, and students can apply for scholarships.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel more spiritual, with improved destiny and gains from past investments. Stronger bonding with the boss may lead to promotions, and good news from siblings is likely. Control harsh speaking in personal and love life to maintain harmony.

KIDZONE



Khanak Joshi, 9 Years, Indus International School

T Dhanya, 6 Years, Mount Litera Zee School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(11)(9)(5) ÷ (36)
55 ÷ 4
= 13.75

BULL'S EYE
icing, MINCING, mint, mining

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
8

RIDDLER
They are all two letters plus a number.

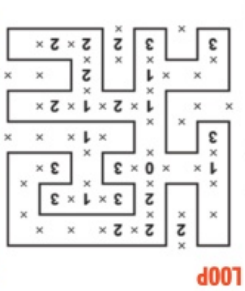
QUOTE UNCODE
He who would leap high must take a long run.

SUDOKU

6	5	9	7	4	1	8	2	3
2	8	3	5	9	6	4	1	7
1	4	7	8	2	3	5	9	6
3	1	2	4	7	9	6	5	8
5	7	4	6	1	8	9	3	2
8	9	6	2	3	5	1	7	4
4	6	1	3	5	7	2	8	9
7	2	5	9	8	4	3	6	1
9	3	8	1	6	2	7	4	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Se, Sen, Dens, Dines, Sidney, Density.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
7 − 4 + 6 − 2 = 7
Medium
7 + 2 + 2 − 4 = 7
Hard
3 − 2 × 6 × 4 = 24

FAST FIVE

C	I	A	O	S
I	M	I	D	E
B	E	R	E	T
U	L	T	R	A
P	E	A	C	H

KAKURO

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